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Local radiologist says X-rays prove JFK shot from front

Natl. Archives

BANNER PHOTO: DONN JONES

Dr. Randolph Robertson, a Nashville radiologist, has examined President Kennedy's X-rays and now argues there was more than one assassin.

By Charlie Appleton
BANNER CHIEF STATE WRITER 6297DS

On the 32nd anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination, a Nashville doctor who has studied post-shooting X-rays of the president's head is convinced one of JFK's killers is still walking free.

Dr. Randolph H. "Randy" Robertson says X-rays and films clearly show the first bullet hit Kennedy from behind and was fired from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. It slammed the president's head forward.

But then a second shot, fired within six-hundredths of a second of the first, appeared to come from the area of the "grassy knoll" and hit Kennedy in the front of the head, he says.

This shot, he adds, blew out a large piece of the president's skull. This piece landed on the trunk of the presidential limousine and was retrieved by Jacqueline Kennedy, he says.

Secret Service agents recovered this piece from the vehicle, but Robertson contends government doctors failed to fit it properly into the puzzle.

Lee Harvey Oswald was identified after a lengthy government probe as the man who fired the shot from the book depository. But the existence and identity of the grassy knoll shooter, if any, has been the subject of wild speculation ever since the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

Robertson is convinced the government has engaged in a cover-up.

"They didn't know if there was an international conspiracy then, or what," the 39-year-old University of Illinois graduate says. "They just figured they'd keep it under wraps for now and sort it out later. Then there were a lot of initiatives for them not to do that."

Robertson, who has a private practice and works at Southern Hills Medical Center, hopes to

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publish his findings in a medical journal.

Robertson was 7 when the president was killed in Dallas. His interest was renewed with the release of Oliver Stone's film, *JFK*, in 1991.

The radiologist formally applied to the Kennedy family attorney for permission to look at the files in the National Archives. Permission was granted, and Robertson says Kennedy lawyer Burke Marshall told him he was the first radiologist in private practice to obtain such access.

Over the years, the slain president's family has severely restricted access to autopsy photos, X-rays and other records.

Robertson began his research in earnest three years ago.

Three government review panels have insisted only one assassin was involved, but Robertson claims that conclusion ignores the evidence.

"The X-rays show otherwise," the doctor says. "They show he was shot twice in the head — once from behind and once from the front.

"The second shot removed a piece of skull, which was displaced onto the trunk of the limousine and was recovered by Jacqueline. That piece — approximately 4 inches by 2½ inches — was brought to the autopsy room and X-rayed. It was determined to be a portion of an exit wound.

"It came off the top rear of his head," Robertson continues. "There is some motion forward and then backward. This piece did not come out until the backward motion.

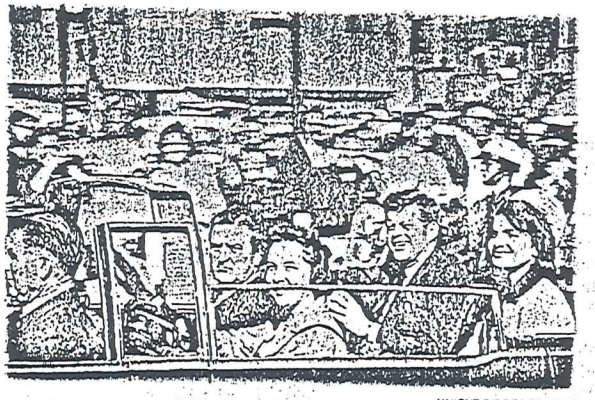
"The only place it could fit was in the top rear of the head. Radiographically and photographically, there are two exit wounds" — one in the front of Kennedy's head, and the other in back.

Robertson contends the two exit wounds confirm that "there was a gunman in front of the president as well as behind him."

The wounds and the trajectory support his theory that two gunmen were involved in the assassination that stunned this nation 32 years ago and caused most Americans to remember exactly where they were when they heard the fateful news.

Robertson says he is working with other specialists and experts to confirm his findings.

The Warren Commission, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to investigate Kennedy's assassination, concluded after an extensive investigation that Oswald acted alone.



KNIGHT-RIDDER TRIBUNE

Moments before he was shot and killed, President John F. Kennedy rides with his wife, Jacqueline, and Texas Gov. John Connally and his wife, Nellie, through the streets of Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.